

McGILL UNIVERSITY.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS TO DR. CRAIK, — DEAN OF THE FACULTY, ON THE OCCASION OF HANGING HIS PORTRAIT IN THE FACULTY ROOM.

From THE GAZETTE, June 18th, 1900.

An oil painting of Dr. Craik, the Dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill University, now occupies a place of honor in the Faculty Room of the Medical Department of the University; the members of the Faculty and Teaching Staff having decided to have Dr. Craik's portrait so placed during the learned Dean's lifetime. The picture, which is life size, was painted by the well-known artist, Mr. Jongers.

The presentation of the portrait, accompanied by an Address,—handsomely illuminated by Mr. Edward Cox,—was made at a Banquet to Dr. Craik, at St. James's Club on the evening of the 11th instant. Professor Roddick, M.P., was in the chair, and with only one or two unavoidable exceptions, every member of the Faculty and Teaching Staff was present.

After the usual loyal toasts and patriotic songs, the Portrait and the Address were presented on behalf of the Faculty by Professor Girdwood, the Senior Professor. Addresses were also made by the Chairman, Dr. Roddick, Dr. Shepherd, Dr. Ruttan and others.

In presenting the Address, Professor Girdwood spoke as follows:—

"It is with feelings of keenest pleasure that I now rise to the performance of a duty, which the kindness of my Colleagues has imposed upon me. It is now 31 years since, in 1869, the

Governors of McGill University first associated me with yourself in the teaching of Chemistry in this Faculty. During this long period, I can recall many occasions when it has been my privilege to spend hours with you, in the exercise of those duties which devolved upon us. Often have we spent hours together in social enjoyment. These occasions of interchange of ideas, whether chemical, professional or social, have been among the happiest moments of my life; but none have afforded me the intense pleasure of the present moment, when called upon to act as the mouthpiece of my Colleagues in doing honor to one who has so ably, so energetically and so successfully pleaded their cause, in the various conditions, surroundings and audiences, in which and before whom you, sir, have been called upon to speak for the Medical Faculty of Old McGill.

"I have to present this Address, on the occasion of your Portrait being hung on the walls of the Faculty Room, and I am glad that you have seen this honor, probably the best in our gift; but we hope that you will long be spared to us; and we are selfish enough to hope that you will long be spared to exercise those duties as Dean of our Faculty, the honor and dignity of which position, you have

in the past proved yourself so well fitted to maintain. The readiness and happiness of your speech on all occasions, your grace of diction, and the force of your convincing arguments, but for which in many a hard-fought battle we would have been worsted, have eminently proven your extreme fitness, and that you have been the right man in the right place. Your kindness of manner and thoughtfulness for others, have endeared you to patients, to the public at large, and to your friends; and, speaking for myself, I am sure I do but express sentiments from my colleagues, when I say that we esteem ourselves fortunate, in being able to call you by so endearing a title as friend.

Professor Girdwood then read the Faculty's Address to its Dean, which was as follows:—

"To Robert Craik, Esq., M.D., LL.D.,
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine,
McGill University:

"Dear Mr. Dean,—We, the Professors, Lecturers and Demonstrators, on this, the occasion of the hanging of your portrait upon the walls of the Faculty Room, desire to give expression to our most loyal regard and deep-seated affection for you; and to congratulate you upon having guided the destinies of our Faculty through that decade in which it has undergone a greater and more remarkable expansion than in all the previous half century of its existence.

"It has been our good fortune to have you for our Dean at a time when not only the methods of teaching Medicine were undergoing a remarkable change for the better, but also when our public spirited and wealthy citizens were beginning to recognize the importance of our profession, and the advantages to the community of aiding us in training men to enter worthily upon its arduous duties and when the munificent gifts of Montreal citizens to our College and Hospitals had so equipped Montreal as to make it second to none in its facilities for teaching the profession you so ably represent.

"We feel, sir, that it is largely to your unselfish devotion to the interests of our School, your strong personality, and your natural and warming eloquence, we owe the sympathy and aid of our Benefactors.

"As that of a brilliant Student of a popular Professor, of an honored

Dean of our Faculty, it is thrice fitting that your portrait should, during your lifetime, find a resting place within the walls, and we thank you for the opportunity you have given us to place it there."

This address was signed by W. Peterson, G. P. Girdwood, T. G. Roddick, W. Gardner, F. J. Shepherd, F. Buller, James Stewart, Geo. Wilkins, D. P. Penhallow, Wesley Mills, J. C. Cameron, A. D. Blackader, R. J. Ruttan, James Bell, J. G. Adami, Fredk. G. Finley, H. A. Lafleur, G. E. Armstrong, H. S. Birkett, T. J. N. Burgess, Wyatt Johnston, Chas. F. Martin, William S. Morrow, J. N. Elder, J. J. Gardner, J. Anderson Springale, F. A. L. Lockhart, A. E. Garrow, W. F. Hamilton, G. Gordon Campbell, J. G. McCarthy, David J. Evans, N. D. Gunn, R. Tait McKenzie, J. A. Henderson, Jno. W. Scane, Kenneth Cameron, Edward J. Semple, R. A. Kerry, Jos. J. Ross, A. E. Orr, A. G. Nicholls, H. B. Yates, A. A. Robertson, J. Alex. Hutchison, J. D. Cameron, D. D. MacTaggart, Duncan P. Anderson, Ridley Mackenzie, H. Douglas Hamilton.

DR. CRAIK'S REPLY.

Dr. Craik in replying, spoke as follows:—

My dear friends and fellow workers in the Faculty of Medicine: When you did me the honor some little time ago asking me to sit for my portrait, that it might be placed in our Faculty Room among the portraits of the honored men who are no longer with us, but whose labors and talents have done so much to make our Faculty so well and favorably known in the Educational World it came as a surprise to me, and I need scarcely say also as a source of gratification: for I was quite unconscious of having merited so great a compliment or so high an honor.

And now comes another surprise even greater than the first, in the beautiful Address which you have just presented to me, and in which my poor services to the Faculty are spoken of in such terms of praise as to put me utterly to the blush and to make me fain to suspect that your friendship for me and your good wishes have outrun your discrimination and caused you to see in me qualities which, if I am fortunate enough to possess them, it can only be in a much more moderate degree than that for

which your partiality gives me credit.

But I must not allow my modesty to take the bloom from the compliment which you wish to pay me. I willingly, nay, gladly, accept it in the spirit in which it is offered.

Happy is the Chief who has the confidence and the good-will of his followers and fellow-workers and where such harmony exists, prosperity is almost sure to follow.

Gentlemen, I have been a happy Chief and our Faculty has prospered. My share of the work, such as it has been, has been a labor of love, but the great burden of the work has fallen upon you, and right well and willingly have you done it; and, to you, therefore, belongs the lion's share of the credit.

It is seldom becoming in anyone to speak much of himself, or of the part he has taken in any successful undertaking but your kindness has made it necessary that I should make some brief allusion to the part which I have tried to play in contributing to the success of our Faculty.

It was no light task to take up the burden which had fallen from the shoulders of such Deans as Holmes, Campbell and Howard; and it was with no little sinking of heart that I responded to the unanimous call of the Faculty to allow myself to be nominated as their successor. They had set so high a standard for the office that had I attempted to follow or to imitate them in any slavish fashion, I should utterly have failed. But my then experience of a third of a century in official connection with the Faculty in the various capacities of Demonstrator, Curator, Professor, Registrar and Treasurer stood me in good stead; for it made me familiar with the working of the Faculty in all its departments, with its weak points as well as its strong ones and I decided to attempt the task to the best of my ability, relying implicitly upon the active help and cordial co-operation of my Colleagues in the Faculty.

Needless to say such help and co-operation were loyally given, and from that day to the present time the Faculty has continued to work practically as a unit. In the conduct of its business, the free and full discussion of all subjects brought before it has always been encouraged and suggestions from every quarter have been welcomed and accepted after careful scrutiny, in so far as they have promised

to be useful. Speaking as Dean of the Faculty, I am breaking no confidence when I say that in our discussions we have never had any serious differences. We have had our little breezes and worries; but with the frank and open give and take of assured friendship they have never separated us, but have rather tended to bring us more closely together.

I may also say that we have always striven to take a broad view of every question that has come before us dealing with it in such a way as to bring it into harmony with the attitude which we have endeavored to assume and to maintain, that of advanced and enlightened Progressiveness. In endeavoring to maintain this attitude we have tried always to act carefully, but without timidity; promptly, but without undue haste; boldly and resolutely, but never recklessly; justly, but never quixotically. I do not say that in these endeavors we have always been entirely successful we have no doubt sometimes blundered but I think we may fairly claim that we have made no serious mistakes, and we have not as yet been obliged to retrace our steps.

Gentlemen, it is to this unity of purpose in our Faculty and to the earnestness with which we have striven collectively towards the attainment of these high ideals, and not to the influence of any single individual, that we are to look for the sources of that success of which we are all so proud; together we have labored to achieve it, and together we must accept the praise or the blame. For the first three or four years of our joint labors, comparatively little was done by outsiders to help us. We were on our trial and upon our proved capacity to help ourselves, and to deal effectively with the known difficulties with which we had to contend, would depend our worthiness to be entrusted later with those munificent sums which have done so much to lift us out of all our difficulties. "Nothing succeeds like success"; prudent men do not pour treasure into a sinking ship and there can be little doubt that our courage in undertaking unaided the responsibility of establishing in 1892 the Chair of Pathology followed soon after by our firm stand in resisting narrow and unjust provincial legislation together with the evidences of public appreciation as shown by our increasing classes, had much to do in determining that active sympathy on the part of

our great Benefactors; which bore fruit soon afterwards in their magnificent benefactions.

Of the many reforms and improvements that have been brought about in the last eleven years, this is not the time nor the place to speak. It will be for those who come after us to appraise them at their fair value, and we must, therefore, leave them to the judgment of posterity.

In speaking of the Faculty, I have been careful to do so impersonally. I could not well do otherwise without being invidious; but there is one gentleman to whom I owe such a debt of gratitude that I cannot resist this opportunity of openly acknowledging it. I allude to my dear and valued friend, the Faculty's gifted Registrar, Professor Ruttan. Words utterly fail me in

trying to express what he has been to me. Early and late, on all kinds of occasions, I have had to rely upon his assistance, and he has never failed me and his help has been given in such a way as to make the obligation sit lightly upon me. The Faculty as well as myself, is to be congratulated on having in his responsible position, so talented and popular an Officer.

And now, Gentlemen, what am I to say to you for your goodness to me in this matter? Life with its trials, has also many prizes, and I have had my full share of them; some have ministered to a laudable ambition, in some I have taken a pardonable pride; but your kindness tonight outclasses them all. It has touched me to the very heart and can never be forgotten.